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**REMARKS  
BY  
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA**

**A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
TRAFFICKING-IN-PERSONS LAW (2012) AND THE  
NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION (2012-2014):  
FROM ADOPTION TO IMPLEMENTATION**

**Opening Ceremony  
Bangabandhu International Convention Center, Dhaka  
July 2, 2013**

Senior Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. CQK Mustaq Ahmed

Director General, UN and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Saida Muna Tasneem

The Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed

The Vice-President for Empowerment and Civic Engagement, Winrock International, Ms. Carol O'Laughlin

Most especially, the three victims of trafficking who just shared their dark experiences...

... and all of you who, like me, are committed to destroying the scourge of human trafficking forever

Asalaam 'malaikum and good morning.

Slavery ... an ugly word ... an ugly concept ... a word that for many people around the world evokes grainy black and white images of wretched Africans generations ago being shackled, tortured, murdered, enslaved and shipped off to the Americas to work on sugar and cotton plantations.

To many, slavery is a quaint, albeit sordid, chapter of long ago history.

But as we have just heard from the victims of trafficking, slavery ... modern day slavery ... the trafficking of human beings ... is not some relic of the past.

Slavery continues to this day ... and it is not quaint; it is ugly; it is savage; it is inhumane; it is unacceptable ... and it must end ... forever.

The slave masters of today come in many guises: sometimes they are labor recruiters ... or village dalals ... or neighbors ... or supposed friends ... or even relatives.

The shackles of modern slavery are lies, false offers of jobs, education and bright futures, drugs, fear, torture, sexual abuse.

The results of modern slavery are tortured, abused and tormented people who must rebuild their lives, if given the chance ... we have just heard the stories a few minutes ago.

The people and government of Bangladesh have cried out, "Enough! Bangladesh will not partake of the global slave trade." The good people of Bangladesh should not live in fear that they or their children will become the next victims of human trafficking.

Last year Bangladesh enacted a new law to expand the definition of trafficking thus enabling the government to better protect its citizens from this scourge. And last year, the government, Bangladeshi civil society and Bangladesh's many friends around the world, including America, launched a two-year plan of action to defeat the trafficking of human beings.

America, through USAID and Winrock International, partners with the Government of Bangladesh and civil society to help prevent trafficking from taking place, to rehabilitate and empower trafficking survivors and those most at-risk, to provide economic alternatives to unsafe internal and cross-border migration, to expand public awareness and prevention efforts, including labor migration abuses and victimization of men, and to ensure justice for those who break the nation's laws.

Bangladesh has made important progress in the battle against trafficking, and this progress was recognized in the 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report, which was just released by the State Department. A copy of that report is in your packet, and a Bangla version will be on our website soon. I applaud Bangladesh for these successes in this fight against modern day slavery ... and I am pleased that America has played its part by helping to reintegrate victims, by bringing greater awareness of the threat of trafficking to thousands of people in vulnerable communities, by training over 200 police officers, prosecutors and judges on the new law and improved procedures for prosecuting cases of human trafficking, by promoting safe migration of labor overseas, and by participating in the Vigilant Task Force to monitor labor migration. These are all good things ...

... but, of course, there is always more to do to ensure total victory against the traffickers, more to do to end slavery in Bangladesh forever. I think the greatest need now is for the government to finalize the implementing rules to facilitate full implementation of the 2012 anti-trafficking law. These rules are the critical next steps in winning the war against trafficking as they will close loopholes, clarify vague sections of the law, and thus facilitate prosecutions. America stands ready to be helpful however possible to ensure that these implementing rules as effective

as possible in bringing together key elements of the government ... law enforcement, judiciary, social services, labor and employment, communications and others ... along with civil society to fight and defeat trafficking.

I hope Bangladesh will move to the global model of eliminating recruitment fees paid by workers; such fees fuel trafficking. Bangladesh's recent government-to-government agreement with Malaysia is a good step in this direction as it reduces fees and includes special language on combatting trafficking. In the Philippines, employers pay all the recruitment costs.

I believe the time has come to eradicate slavery ... forever ... from Bangladesh.

I believe the people, civil society and government of Bangladesh are deeply committed to protecting its citizens, all of its citizens from the scourge of trafficking.

I believe the people, civil society and government of Bangladesh are determined to make Bangladesh a trafficking-free country.

As America's representative to Bangladesh, I commit myself, my mission, my government to do everything that we can to help Bangladesh prevail in its quest to ensure that never, ever again will the wonderful people of this great nation be victims of human trafficking.

Thank you.

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*\*As prepared for delivery*